

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

December Livestock Slaughter  
Cattle Inventory  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
Milk Production

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 1.1 million pounds, unchanged from November but down 8 percent from the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, up 100 head from November but unchanged from the previous year. Average live weight was 930 pounds, down 6 pounds from the previous month but 90 pounds above December 2003. Total live weight at 1.02 million pounds was up 6 percent from the previous month and 12 percent above the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during December totaled 600 head, down 200 head from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 491 pounds, up 13 pounds from November but 6 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 300,000 pounds, was down 21 percent from November and 25 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 2,700 head, up 400 head from the previous month but unchanged from December 2003. Average live weight was 159 pounds, down 22 pounds from November and 26 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 423,000 pounds, 1 percent above November but 14 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 100 head, unchanged from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 82 pounds, up 1 pound from the previous month and 9 pounds above the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in December 2003

December 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.69 million head, up 1 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,268 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 14.9 million pounds, 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,700 head, down 23 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 334 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.25 million head, 1 percent below December 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from December 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,400 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2004 commercial red meat production** was 45.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 6 percent from last year; veal was down 13 percent; pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November		December		January – December		December		January – December
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>Number, thousand head</b>									
Cattle	1.0	1.1	1.1	14.8	13.4	2,675.3	2,690.5	35,493.4	32,722.6
Calves	0.8	0.8	0.6	10.2	7.7	97.4	74.7	1,000.8	843.5
Hogs	2.3	2.7	2.7	24.3	23.0	9,361.0	9,250.1	100,930.7	103,454.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	1.7	261.9	242.4	2,978.8	2,837.7
<b>Total live weight, thousand pounds</b>									
Cattle	958	911	1,020	13,016	11,696	3,329,388	3,410,781	43,703,342	40,580,823
Calves	380	401	300	5,095	3,758	31,413	24,932	317,889	278,810
Hogs	419	492	423	4,968	4,537	2,518,208	2,496,511	26,871,081	27,560,974
Sheep & Lambs	8	6	7	162	159	35,952	33,846	398,497	386,270
<b>Average live weight, pounds</b>									
Cattle	936	840	930	879	873	1,244	1,268	1,231	1,240
Calves	478	497	491	500	488	322	334	318	331
Hogs	181	185	159	204	197	269	270	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	81	73	82	90	94	137	140	134	136
<b>Million pounds</b>									
Red Meat	1.1	1.2	1.1	15.1	13.0	3,884.0	3,930.8	46,572.2	45,412.5

### Cattle Inventory – January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	850	860	94,888	95,848
Beef Cows	489	494	32,861	33,055
Milk Cows	41	36	8,990	9,005
Beef Cow Replacement, Heifers	81	82	5,518	5,746
Milk Cow Replacement, Heifers	10	9	4,020	4,133
Other Heifers	17	18	9,806	9,793
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	21	22	16,277	16,511
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	33	32	2,206	2,219
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	158	167	15,210	15,385
Cattle on Feed	---	---	13,813	13,749

	2003	2004	2003	2004
Calf Crop	415	415	37,903	37,625

### Louisiana Cattle Inventory

**All cattle and calves** on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2005, were estimated at 860,000 head, up 1 percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 530,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Louisiana's 2004 calf crop was estimated at 415,000 head, the same as the 2003 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 494,000 head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2004.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 36,000 head, were down 12 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** – 82,000 head, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** – 9,000 head, down 10 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers** – 18,000 head, up 6 percent.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** – 22,000 head, up 5 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** – 32,000 head, down 3 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** – 167,000 head, up 6 percent.

### United States Cattle Inventory

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2004.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 33.1 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2004.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 9.01 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2004.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2005 and the change from January 1, 2004, are as follows:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 19.7 million, up 2 percent.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.75 million, up 4 percent.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.13 million, up 3 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.79 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 16.5 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.22 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves** on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.7 million, down slightly.
- ▶ The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 27.9 million, up 2 percent.

The 2004 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.6 million head, down 1 percent from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, down 1 percent from 2003.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers: December 2004

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2004	December 2004	January 2005 <sup>1</sup>	January 2004	December 2004	January 2005 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.46	5.57	5.38	7.35	5.45	5.32
Rice, per cwt	7.69	7.74	7.77	8.57	7.43	7.41
Upland cotton, per pound	.622	.446	.447 <sup>2</sup>	.622	.407	.394 <sup>2</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.10	84.30	84.20
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	57.30	64.40	65.00	80.90	86.80	89.10
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	87.00	98.50	100.00	85.40	91.80	94.20
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	44.50	48.40	50.00	46.10	48.70	50.00
Calves, per cwt	102.00	115.00	116.00	110.00	122.00	123.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.430	.390	.430
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.926	.654	.558
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.20	16.40	15.90

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>3</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>4</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

### January Farm Prices Received Index Down 1 Point From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point below the December Index. The Crop Index is down 3 points while the Livestock Index is up 1 point. Producers received higher commodity prices for broilers, cattle, oranges and snap beans. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, dairy, eggs and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, dairy, tobacco and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points from January 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, is 1 point below last month but 2 points above January 2004.

### Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from December and 4 points above January 2004. Higher prices in January for self propelled machinery, feeder pigs and nitrogen fertilizers offset lower prices for LP gas, gasoline and feed grains.

## Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2003-2004

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		October-December Milk Production <sup>2</sup>	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	18	17	60	56
Arkansas	28	26	80	73
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>109</b>
Mississippi	29	26	96	87
Oklahoma	81	75	320	297
Tennessee	77	73	285	270
20 Major States <sup>3</sup>	7,713	7,760	12,313	12,432
<b>United States</b>	<b>9,011</b>	<b>9,018</b>	<b>41,532</b>	<b>41,895</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

### Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 109 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2004 quarter, down 8 percent from the same period in 2003. Milk cows averaged 36,000 head during the quarter, down 12 percent from last year.

### United States Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major states during December totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from December 2003. November revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from November 2003. The November revision represented an increase of 5 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,602 pounds for December, 6 pounds above December 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.76 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2003, but 4,000 head less than November 2004.

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

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